(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has intimated the Doordarshan telecasts following scientific programmes for children on Doordarshan National Channel:—

(1) Terra Quiz, (2) Turning Point,

Children's programmes are also telecast for half-an-hour per week on Regional Kendras of Doordarshan.

Prasar Bharati has intimated that the DD-Mctro has not received any proposal to telecast scientific programmes for children. DD Bharati has a window for children's programmes from 2.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Family Courts

†3029. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up family courts in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the salient features of such courts;

(d) whether the said courts will be bound to dispose of the cases in a stipulated time-frame; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Family Courts are set up to promote conciliation in and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs which *inter-alia,* include,

(i) proceedings for a decree of nullity of marriage. (ii) Restitution of conjugal rights,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Judicial separation,
(iv) Dissolution of marriage,
(v) Declaration as to matrimonial status of any person, .
(vi) Declaration as to the ownership of property of the party concerned,
(vii) Interim order or injunction arising out of marital relationship,
(viii) Declaration of legitimacy of any person or guardianship of a person or the custody or access to any minor, and
(ix) Suits or proceedings for maintenance.

The emphasis of the Family Courts is on conciliation and achievement of socially desirable results without strict adherence to rigid Rules of procedure and evidence adopted in ordinary civil proceedings.

(d) and (e) No time frame can be prescribed as the same has not been provided in the Courts Act, 1984. further, disposal of cases relates to substantive functioning of the judiciary.

Ratio of judges

3030. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission in its 127th Report in 1988 had recommended that the ratio of judges per million population should be increased to atleast 50 judges per million in the following five years;

(b) the ratio of judges per million at present;

(c) whether the shortage of judges is the cause of huge arrears of cases in courts; and

(d) the steps being taken to appoint more judges so that arrears could be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

Law Commission in its 120th Report recommended an increase in judge strength to 50 judges per million population.